Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 2 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for sending a video clip in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:

establishing an instant messaging communications session between an instant message sender using a client computer and an instant message recipient using another client computer;

storing, on a host ~~system,~~ system that is separate from both the client computer of the instant message sender and the client computer of the instant message recipient, a collection of video clips that are available to be sent to instant message recipients in instant messaging communications sessions;

~~establishing an instant messaging communications session between an instant message~~
~~sender and an instant message recipient;~~

during the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient:

providing the instant message sender with access to the collection of video clips stored on the host system;

receiving, at the host system, a request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for a particular video clip from among the collection of video clips stored on the host system to be delivered to the instant message ~~recipient;~~ recipient's client computer within the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient;

in response to receiving the request from the instant message sender for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message ~~recipient, sending~~ recipient's

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 3 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

client computer, sending, within the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient, a video clip identifier corresponding to the particular video clip to the instant message ~~recipient;~~ recipient's client computer;

after sending the video clip identifier corresponding to the particular video clip to the instant message ~~recipient,~~ recipient's client computer within the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient, receiving, from the instant message ~~recipient,~~ recipient's client computer, a request for the particular video ~~clip;~~ clip, the request for the particular video clip including the video clip identifier; and

in response to receiving the request for the particular video ~~clip, accessing~~ clip including the video clip identifier, leveraging the video clip identifier to access the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored at the host system and communicating the particular video clip from the host system to the instant message ~~recipient~~ recipient's client computer within the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient for rendering.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which receiving the request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message ~~recipient~~ recipient's client computer comprises receiving a request that is generated in response to a communication from the instant message sender to the instant message recipient.

4. (Cancelled)

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 4 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 in which receiving the request for the particular video clip including the video clip identifier further comprises receiving [[an]] a video clip identifier comprising that references a location on the host system of the selected video clip.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 in which the video clip identifier further comprises a file name.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 wherein receiving the request for the particular video clip including the video clip identifier comprises receiving [[an]] a video clip identifier created for the selected video clip based upon the application of an algorithm to at least a portion of the selected video clip.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1 in which receiving the request for the particular video clip including the video clip identifier comprises receiving the video clip identifier in response to a communication from the instant message sender to the instant message recipient.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the host comprises a server authorized as a partner to an instant messaging host.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which storing the video clips comprises storing one or more still photographs and a sound track.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which storing the video clips comprises storing an animation sequence.

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 5 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which storing the video clips comprises storing one or more video clips configured to expire upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 in which the predetermined event comprises passage of a predetermined length of time or the passage of a predetermined date.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 in which the predetermined event comprises a predetermined number of uses.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising:
determining whether a video clip has expired, and
disallowing access to the video clip if the video clip has expired.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether a video clip has been banned, and
disallowing access to the video clip if the video clip has been banned.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which determining whether the video clip has been banned comprises determining whether the video clip has been banned based on a report by a user.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 in which determining whether the video clip has been banned comprises determining whether the video clip has been banned based on a violation of a term of a service agreement.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether the particular video clip is an official item; and
displaying the particular video clip if the video clip is an official item.

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 6 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

storing the collection of video clips on the host system comprises storing, on the host system, one or more video clips associated with the instant message sender.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving, at the host system, one or more additional video clips from the instant message sender for sending to instant message recipients during subsequent instant messaging communications sessions; and

in response to receiving the one or more additional video clips from the instant message sender, adding the one or more additional video clips to the collection of video clips stored on the host system.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining capabilities of the instant message ~~recipient~~ recipient's client computer at the host system, and in which accessing the particular video clip comprises determining an appropriate version from one or more versions of the particular video clip based upon the determined capabilities and accessing the appropriate version of the particular video clip.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 in which determining capabilities comprises determining a data connection speed of the instant message ~~recipient.~~ recipient's client computer.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein determining capabilities comprises identifying hardware associated with the instant message ~~recipient.~~ recipient's client computer.

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 7 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein determining capabilities comprises identifying software associated with the instant message ~~sender.~~ recipient's client computer.

26. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for enabling perception of a video clip in an instant messaging communications session, the method comprising:

rendering, on an instant messaging recipient system associated with an instant message recipient, an instant messaging application user interface for an instant messaging communications session involving at least the instant message recipient and an instant message sender;

~~receiving an~~ receiving, within the instant messaging communications session involving the instant message recipient and the instant message sender, a text instant message that includes a ~~video clip identifier corresponding~~ selectable link that corresponds to a selected video clip to be displayed to the instant message recipient by the instant messaging recipient ~~system,~~ system within the instant messaging application user interface, the video clip having been selected by the instant message sender as a video clip to be sent to the instant message recipient in the instant messaging communications session;

~~in response to~~ after receiving the text instant message that includes the ~~video clip identifier corresponding~~ selectable link that corresponds to the selected video clip, ~~automatically accessing the selected video clip;~~ receiving an indication of a selection of the selectable link by the instant message recipient, and

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the selectable link by the instant message recipient, rendering the accessed selected video clip at the instant messaging recipient system.

27. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:

establishing an instant messaging communications session between an instant message sender using a client computer and an instant message recipient using another client computer;

storing, on a host ~~system,~~ system that is separate from both the client computer of the instant message sender and the client computer of the instant message recipient, a collection of video clips that are available to be sent to instant message recipients in instant messaging communications sessions;

~~establishing an instant messaging communications session between an instant message sender and an instant message recipient;~~

during the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient:

providing the instant message sender with access to the collection of video clips stored on the host system;

receiving, at the host system, a request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for a particular video clip from among the collection of video clips stored on the host system to be delivered to the instant message ~~recipient;~~ recipient's client computer within the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient;

in response to receiving the request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message ~~recipient, sending~~ recipient's client computer, sending, within the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient, a video clip identifier corresponding to the particular video clip to the instant message ~~recipient;~~ recipient's client computer;

after sending the video clip identifier corresponding to the particular video clip to the instant message ~~recipient,~~ recipient's client computer within the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient, receiving, from the instant message ~~recipient,~~ recipient's client computer, a request for the particular video ~~clip;~~ clip, the request for the particular video clip including the video clip identifier; and

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 9 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

in response to receiving the request for the particular video ~~clip, accessing~~ clip including the video clip identifier, leveraging the video clip identifier to access the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored at the host system and communicating the particular video clip from the host system to the instant message ~~recipient~~ recipient's client computer within the instant messaging communications session that has been established between the instant message sender and the instant message recipient for rendering.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for receiving the request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message ~~recipient~~ recipient's client computer comprise instructions for receiving a request that is generated in response to a communication from the instant message sender to the instant message recipient.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim [[30]] 27 in which instructions for receiving the request for the particular video clip including the video clip identifier further comprise instructions for receiving [[an]] a video clip identifier ~~comprising~~ that references a location on the host system of the selected video clip.

32. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 31 in which the video clip identifier further comprises a file name.

33. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim [[30]] 27 wherein instructions for receiving the request for the particular video clip including the video clip identifier comprise

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 10 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

instructions for receiving [[an]] a video clip identifier created for the selected video clip based upon the application of an algorithm to at least a portion of the selected video clip.

34. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim [[30]] 27 in which instructions for receiving the request for the particular video clip including the video clip identifier comprise instructions for receiving the video clip identifier in response to a communication from the instant messaging sender to the instant message recipient.

35. (Original) The computer program of claim 27 in which the host system comprises a server authorized as a partner to an instant messaging host.

36. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for storing the video clips comprise instructions for storing one or more still photographs and a sound track.

37. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for storing the video clips comprise instructions for storing an animation sequence.

38. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 27 in which instructions for storing the video clips comprise instructions for storing one or more video clips configured to expire upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

39. (Original) The computer program of claim 38 in which the predetermined event comprises passage of a predetermined length of time or the passage of a predetermined date.

40. (Original) The computer program of claim 38 in which the predetermined event comprises a predetermined number of uses.

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 11 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

41. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 38 further comprising instructions for:

determining whether a video clip has expired, and

disallowing access to the video clip if the video clip has expired.

42. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for:

determining whether a video clip has been banned, and

disallowing access to the video clip if the video clip has been banned.

43. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 42 in which instructions for determining whether the video clip has been banned comprise instructions for determining whether the video clip has been banned based on a report by a user.

44. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 42 in which instructions for determining whether the video clip has been banned comprise instructions for determining whether the video clip has been banned based on a violation of a term of a service agreement.

45. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for:

determining whether the particular video clip is an official item; and

displaying the particular video clip if the video clip is an official item.

46. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 27 wherein:

instructions for storing the collection of video clips on the host system comprise instructions for storing, on the host system, one or more video clips associated with the instant message sender.

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 12 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

47. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for:

receiving, at the host system, one or more additional video clips from the instant message sender for sending to instant messaging recipients during subsequent instant messaging communications sessions; and

in response to receiving the one or more additional video clips from the instant message sender, adding the one or more additional video clips to the collection of video clips stored on the host system.

48. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for determining capabilities of the instant message recipient recipient's client computer at the host system, and in which instructions for accessing the particular video clip comprise instructions for determining an appropriate version from one or more versions of the particular video clip based upon the determined capabilities and accessing the appropriate version of the particular video clip.

49. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 48 in which instructions for determining capabilities comprise instructions for determining a data connection speed of the instant message recipient. recipient's client computer.

50. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 48 wherein instructions for determining capabilities comprise instructions for identifying hardware associated with the instant message recipient. recipient's client computer.

51. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 48 wherein instructions for determining capabilities comprise instructions for identifying software associated with the instant message recipient. recipient's client computer.

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 13 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

52. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a tangible computer readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions for:

rendering, on an instant messaging recipient system associated with an instant message recipient, an instant messaging application user interface for an instant messaging communications session involving at least the instant message recipient and an instant message sender;

~~receiving an~~ receiving, within the instant messaging communications session involving the instant message recipient and the instant message sender, a text instant message that includes a ~~video clip identifier corresponding~~ selectable link that corresponds to a selected video clip to be displayed to the instant message recipient by the instant messaging recipient ~~system~~, system within the instant messaging application user interface, the video clip having been selected by the instant message sender as a video clip to be sent to the instant message recipient in the instant messaging communications session;

~~in response to~~ after receiving the text instant message that includes the ~~video clip identifier corresponding~~ selectable link that corresponds to the selected video clip, ~~automatically accessing the selected video clip;~~ receiving an indication of a selection of the selectable link by the instant message recipient, and

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the selectable link by the instant message recipient, rendering the selected video clip at the instant messaging recipient system.

53. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which providing the instant message sender with access to the collection of video clips stored on the host system comprises sending a list of the available video clips to the instant message ~~sender.~~ sender's client computer.

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

Applicant : Noel Enete et al.
Serial No. : 10/747,623
Filed : December 30, 2003
Page : 14 of 21

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-
388001 / Communications 63-Utility

receiving, at the host system, a request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer to preview the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored on the host system;

in response to receiving the request to preview the particular video clip, accessing the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored on the host system and communicating the particular video clip from the host system to the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for previewing, wherein receiving the request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message ~~recipient~~ recipient's client computer occurs after the particular video clip has been sent to the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for previewing.

55. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 in which the instructions for providing the instant message sender with access to the collection of available video clips comprise instructions for sending a list of the video clips stored on the host system to the instant message ~~sender.~~ sender's client computer.

56. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim 27 further comprising instructions for:

receiving, at the host system, a request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer to preview the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored on the host system; and

in response to receiving the request to preview the particular video clip, accessing the particular video clip from the collection of video clips stored on the host system and communicating the particular video clip from the host system to the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for previewing, wherein receiving the request from the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for the particular video clip to be delivered to the instant message ~~recipient~~ recipient's client computer occurs after the particular video clip has been sent to the instant message ~~sender~~ sender's client computer for previewing.